

# The Queensland Plan Annual Progress Report 2015–16

## About the report

This report outlines the implementation of *The Queensland Plan* (the Plan) over the 2015–16 financial year.

It highlights a range of activities of Queensland governments (state and local), industry, community groups and not-for-profit organisations. These activities align with the 30-year vision developed by the citizens of Queensland.

The report is developed in accordance with the *Queensland Plan Act 2014*.

The report is available online at [www.qld.gov.au/queenslandplan](http://www.qld.gov.au/queenslandplan).

## The 2015–16 year in review

The main purposes of the Act are to establish a long-term vision for the future growth and prosperity of Queensland and reflect the aspirations of the community, business and industry for the future of Queensland. The Act requires consultation with the community, business and industry to develop a plan that can exist beyond electoral cycles.

Amendments to the Act were included in the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, which was introduced into Parliament on 16 June 2016. The amendments streamline the Act by replacing the requirement to develop and implement a government response to the Plan with a requirement for the State Government to consider the Plan in developing its statement of government objectives for the community made under the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*. The change will ensure there is one strategic direction document – the government’s objectives for the community – that will be used as a basis for government planning and reporting. Because the Act incorporates the Plan into local government planning, and local governments already report progress towards implementing their five-year corporate plan and annual plan, the Act’s local government reporting provision has also been removed. The requirement for an annual report on implementation progress is retained as an accountability measure.

The amendments are consistent with the Interim Government Response, dated 1 July 2015, which aligned the Queensland Government’s contribution to achieving the vision and goals of the Plan to the objectives of the community: creating jobs and a diverse economy, delivering quality frontline services, protecting the environment, and building safe, caring and connected communities.

The Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council, which was established in 2014 to advocate for the Plan’s implementation, met four times in 2015–16. During the year, the Council initiated the development of its communication and engagement strategy, and was consulted on the amendments to the Act.

## How to read the report

The report provides an overview of programs and activities aligned to each of the Plan’s nine foundation areas.

It also provides examples of partnerships across sectors and local community collaboration that align with the vision of the Plan.

Finally, the report takes a look at the year ahead, and outlines a number of initiatives that will be delivered in 2016–17.

For more information about Queensland Government activities in 2015–16 visit [www.qld.gov.au/about/staying-informed/reports-publications/annual-reports/](http://www.qld.gov.au/about/staying-informed/reports-publications/annual-reports/). For local governments, refer to individual local government websites.

## Message from the Premier

I am pleased to table this 2015–16 progress report on *The Queensland Plan*.

*The Queensland Plan* sets out the community's shared vision for Queensland's future. It captures our collective aspirations, priorities and values in ensuring our unique state remains a prosperous, inclusive and dynamic place to live and work. *The Queensland Plan* began as a dialogue between Queenslanders – including representatives of the community, business, industry, and other levels of government – and we continue that collaboration and dialogue in its implementation.

My Government is committed to working together to deliver on Queenslanders' 30-year vision. We are committed to strengthening our economic framework to position ourselves for success in a shifting global economy. We believe in delivering quality, integrated frontline services that are available when and how they are needed by citizens. We are committed to protecting our environment and ensuring Queensland's natural assets are safeguarded for future generations. And we are committed to supporting our communities to be safe, caring and inclusive places that look after our most vulnerable members. These objectives for the community align with *The Queensland Plan's* vision and goals and frame our progress on its implementation.

Advancing Queensland's economy underpins our shared vision for the future. While we continue to face economic challenges, we also enjoy exciting new opportunities to grow and diversify our economy. Through innovation, investment and infrastructure, we are building on our traditional strengths in agriculture, tourism and resources, and harnessing new opportunities in industries such as genomics and biofuels, to advance the economy and create jobs.

Job creation is my Government's top priority. A diverse economy focused on knowledge-based industries supports sustainable jobs growth. That is why, this year, we have increased our investment in the Advance Queensland initiative to \$405 million. Accelerating Advance Queensland will drive Queensland's economic growth and diversity by supporting innovation in every sector. Advance Queensland is helping small businesses to innovate, encouraging investment in emerging industries, growing our regional economies through tourism and innovation capability, and investing in innovative health and education initiatives. By supporting research and innovation across the state, we are positioning Queensland to thrive in a shifting global economy.

Queensland has a vibrant and prosperous future ahead, but success cannot be achieved by government alone. That is why my Government is committed to working together with communities, industries, and regions to ensure our collective goals and aspirations are achieved and every Queenslanders has an opportunity to realise their potential.

I would like to thank the members of the Ambassadors Council for their commitment to the people of Queensland and their continued advocacy for delivering on our shared vision. I look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

**ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP**  
**PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND**  
**MINISTER FOR THE ARTS**

## Message from the Leader of the Opposition

The Queensland Plan is a plan for all Queenslanders.

This is a plan which had its genesis with one government and has continued with another. It now enjoys the support of the Queensland Opposition and our positive policies will reflect the fundamental priorities Queenslanders themselves have set.

This is the second annual report, tracking progress from vision to reality.

Formalised and legislated, The Queensland Plan's 30-year vision was created by Queenslanders from the cities to the regions and across ages, experiences and backgrounds.

If we are to truly get Queensland moving, we must target the foundation areas set by Queenslanders in this plan: economy, infrastructure, regions, education, community, health and wellbeing, environment, people and governance.

The Queensland Opposition team is mindful of the views Queenslanders have expressed in this plan. Indeed, our policies have their roots in these aspirations.

Key foundation areas of the plan are "People" and "Economy". Queenslanders want opportunities created for everyone through an economy that promotes diversity and forges prosperity. Our plan to Get Queensland Working is a comprehensive policy to create jobs for young Queenslanders.

Revitalising and restoring our Royalties for Regions policy is also critical to building thriving communities in our regions and building infrastructure that connects Queenslanders.

The Queensland Plan outlines the desire of Queenslanders to achieve balance in the environment. We've acknowledged this in our commitments to introduce a container deposit scheme, phase out single-use plastic bags and our 'Citizens of the Great Barrier Reef' pledge.

The hallmark of The Queensland Plan will be its continuity notwithstanding changes in government and policy – Queenslanders' shared vision and priorities will be enduring.

I hope you will find this second report valuable in measuring the Government's progress against the priorities Queenslanders have set.

Queenslanders have made it clear that they expect to be listened to – informing the approach my team and I take as we travel around our great state.

I encourage all Queenslanders to continue to be engaged, to make their views heard and to contribute strongly to the future direction our state.

**TIM NICHOLLS MP**  
**LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**  
**SHADOW MINISTER FOR ARTS AND MAJOR EVENTS**

## Message from the Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council

It has been an honour to continue to advocate for *The Queensland Plan* over the last year. As Ambassadors, our role is central in bringing together community, business, industry and government to ensure *The Queensland Plan* continues to deliver on our collective vision for the future. We do this by actively engaging with the community and our networks to encourage participation in the implementation of The Queensland Plan, and ensuring that priority areas remain reflective of the challenges and opportunities facing the State.

*The Queensland Plan* captures a shared 30-year vision for Queensland. It represents the views of diverse communities, of business and industry, and of government. It identifies the priorities that will ensure Queensland continues to deliver inclusive economic growth and positive social outcomes. The Council sees a great opportunity in *The Queensland Plan* to not only contribute to shaping a better future for Queenslanders, but also in facilitating effective and genuine engagement with the community on what is important now and into the future.

*The Queensland Plan* requires a long-term perspective that extends beyond a single term of government. Bipartisan support and commitment remains crucial to realising the community's vision. Delivering on *The Queensland Plan* also requires active consideration of new issues, trends and priorities for the state. The Council has a central role in ensuring *The Queensland Plan* remains a living document that continues to reflect community views. One of the most important ways to achieve this is through ongoing community engagement, and this remains a key priority for the Council.

The use of digital technologies and social media is an important consideration, particularly for developing meaningful connections and involvement of young people. The Council will also be looking to hold meetings in regional Queensland to connect with the challenges facing regional Queensland.

The Council would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution made by Acting Chair Mark Henley, who remains an active Ambassador, and former Ambassadors Jordyn Archer, Professor Ian Frazer, Joanne Grainger, Professor Peter Høj, Kathy Mac Dermott, and Margaret de Wit. All brought significant expertise, experience, and commitment to their role, and made an important contribution to establishing a foundation for future initiatives. We wish them all the best with future endeavours.

The activities and initiatives highlighted in this Annual Progress Report show the extent to which Queenslanders – across government, business, industry and the community – are working together to deliver on the goals of *The Queensland Plan*. The Council looks forward to engaging across communities to ensure *The Queensland Plan* remains firmly connected to the people of Queensland.

## New challenges and opportunities

At the time the Plan was developed, it was with an understanding of the impacts of global economic, environmental, social and cultural trends likely to affect the state over the next 30 years. The Plan identified the following global trends:

- Community profile
  - Changes in demographics, including a growing and ageing population with an associated increasing demand for public services such as health, education and infrastructure
- A new world economy
  - Movement of the centre of the global economy from west to east, and north to south, with developing nations becoming major contributors of resources and innovation
  - People becoming global citizens with increased mobility driving urbanisation and placing pressure on the environment, infrastructure, housing and employment
- Naturally Queensland
  - Climate change, decreasing biodiversity, water and food scarcity and land degradation, as well as increasing demand driving a need for a global response for sustainable resource management
- Virtual reality
  - Digital technology enabling exponential growth in the capture of data, increased connectivity, and advancements in artificial intelligence and automation; while also disrupting established industries and sectors.

In 2014–15, domestic and family violence, drought and its impact on families and local communities, youth unemployment particularly in regional Queensland, and risks to the Great Barrier Reef were identified as emerging issues. These issues gained increasing recognition in 2015-16.

In 2015–16, it was recognised that challenges and opportunities for Queenslanders are developing from:

- the downturn in the resources sector and associated displacement of jobs, particularly affecting young people and some regions
- the demand for technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and the internet of things providing new economic opportunities, while requiring management of labour and capital displacement
- the growth of emerging industries such as biofutures and renewable energy, which will create jobs and attract investment
- the use of data and real-time analytics to support business investment and government decisions
- new ways of connecting – technologies and information access are driving new business models and social movements built on loosely-structured networks.

The Queensland Government will continue to work with local communities, business, industry and other levels of government to address challenges and seize opportunities in fostering a strong economic framework and an inclusive society.

## 2015–16 Activity Statement

In 2015, the Premier tabled a statement of the Government's objectives for the community:

### Creating jobs and a diverse economy

- increasing workforce participation
- ensuring safe, productive and fair workplaces
- stimulating economic growth and innovation
- delivering new infrastructure and investment

### Delivering quality frontline services

- achieving better education and training outcomes
- strengthening our health system
- providing responsive and integrated government services
- supporting disadvantaged Queenslanders


















### Protecting the environment


- protecting the Great Barrier Reef
- conserving nature and heritage
- ensuring sustainable management of natural resources
- enabling responsible development

### Building safe, caring and connected communities

- ensuring an accessible and effective justice system
- providing an integrated and reliable transport network
- encouraging safer and inclusive communities
- building regions

The Interim Government Response to the Queensland Plan identifies how the four community objectives align with the foundation areas and targets.

Foundation Area	TARGETS	JOBS AND ECONOMY	FRONTLINE SERVICES	ENVIRONMENT	COMMUNITIES
Education	<b>T1 Literacy and numeracy</b> 100% of Queensland children have basic literacy and numeracy in primary school.				
	<b>T2 Skills for life</b> All Queenslanders enter adulthood with life skills and broad knowledge.				
	<b>T3 Valuing of education</b> Education is highly valued by all Queenslanders.				
Community	<b>T4 Household prosperity</b> Increase the wealth of all Queenslanders while achieving Australia's narrowest gap between the wealthy and the poor.				
	<b>T5 Opportunity for all</b> Anyone who makes Queensland their home has meaningful employment opportunities and participates in their community.				
	<b>T6 Community connection</b> Queensland has the highest rates of volunteering and community participation in Australia.				
Regions	<b>T7 Liveable regions</b> All Queenslanders are highly satisfied with the liveability of their region.				
	<b>T8 Growing regions</b> Double the regional population outside South East Queensland.				
Economy	<b>T9 Growing prosperity</b> Queensland has the highest income, trade and employment growth in Australia.				

	<b>T10 Bright ideas</b> Our brightest ideas have real social and economic benefits.				
Health and wellbeing	<b>T11 Life expectancy</b> Regional and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders have the same life expectancy as other Queenslanders.				
	<b>T12 Disease and injury prevention</b> Queensland has the lowest incidence of preventable disease and injury in Australia.				
	<b>T13 Mental health</b> Queensland leads Australia in improving mental health and wellbeing.				
Environment	<b>T14 Environmental guardian</b> Queensland is recognised as a world leader in environmental management and protection.				
	<b>T15 Environmental balance</b> Queensland has the best balance of environmental protection and economic development in Australia.				
People	<b>T16 Inclusive participation</b> Queensland leads Australia in meaningful community and workforce participation especially for seniors and people with a disability.				
	<b>T17 Indigenous opportunity</b> Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders have the same opportunities and rates of employment as non-Indigenous Queenslanders.				
	<b>T18 Liveability</b> Queensland is the best place to live in Australia				
Infrastructure	<b>T19 Tailored and timely infrastructure</b> The right infrastructure is delivered in a timely way to support economic growth and social needs.				
Governance	<b>T20 Community governance</b> Queenslanders are highly satisfied with the ways governments deliver for their communities.				

This 2015–16 Activity Statement section identifies Queensland Government activities that align with the Plan and sets them out under the Plan’s nine foundation areas, and then identifies where they align with the community objectives.



## Education

Access to quality education and training is fundamental to Queensland's future success. Queenslanders' vision for education includes that all Queenslanders will engage in, and value, education. Education and training will allow us to gain practical skills, enrich our lives, find secure jobs and improve the competitiveness of the economy. If we are to keep pace with the world, our schools, training places and universities need to adapt and evolve further. We need a practical, future-focused curriculum, support for teachers and a focus on lifelong learning. We also need to use partnerships and local expertise to build our skills for emerging industries.

The Queensland Government believes that early childhood and school-based education and training are critical to the future success of all Queenslanders. In 2015–16, the Queensland Government:

### Creating jobs and a diverse economy

- supported Queensland's VET sector through the *2015–16 Annual VET Investment Plan*, which details the increased planned investment in vocational education and training for the financial year
- promoted the Youth Employment Program to provide a range of services to assist and support young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are looking for work, completing high school or considering further education
- sponsored 64 scholarships for local government employees to undertake Diplomas of Local Government Administration to increase opportunity for local government to upskill their workforce and better deliver for their community
- launched the Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow program to support Queensland students to learn the digital and entrepreneurial skills needed in innovative businesses and emerging industries
- expanded the Queensland Government Building and Construction Training Policy to include projects procured by eligible Government Owned Corporations and Public Private Partnerships from 1 July 2015
- approved a total of 384 community-driven projects, worth \$57 million, to provide nationally-recognised training, skills and jobs to more than 14 000 disadvantaged Queenslanders
- allocated \$3.25 million to 57 local governments for 260 additional traineeships under the First Start Program

### Delivering quality frontline services

- released *Advancing education: An action plan for education in Queensland* following statewide consultation, to support students to develop the knowledge, skills and qualities they need for the future
- provided increased TAFE student support services, further opportunities for foundation skills development for disadvantaged learners, and improved regional support programs
- established a Queensland Training Ombudsman to support the provision of quality vocational training and education including apprenticeships and traineeships
- offered up to 150 scholarships/bursaries to encourage and entice preservice teachers to teach in Queensland state schools, particularly in areas of high demand
- developed an online coaching module to support teacher professional learning across all schooling sectors in priority area of evidence-informed differentiation
- released Schools of the Future – a strategy for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in Queensland state schools to build teacher capability, increase student engagement and achieve excellence in STEM learning
- commissioned a platform for Virtual STEM Academies to give high-achieving students in Years 5–9 opportunities to increase and extend their learning in STEM subjects
- staged the World Science Festival in March 2016 at the Queensland Museum to promote STEM literacy across a broad range of audiences through both free and ticketed events
- delivered, through the State Library of Queensland, a statewide, \$300 000 grants program to support public libraries in 33 councils to implement public programs in coding and robotics
- continued to support schools to implement the Australian Curriculum with the comprehensive set of Curriculum into the Classroom materials, and provided education programs to support young Queenslanders' health and wellbeing:
  - the Respectful relationships education program, which gives Prep to Year 12 students opportunities for social and emotional learning in self-awareness, self-management, social awareness,

- relationships, ethics, values, social norms, stereotypes, human rights, risk and responsible decision-making
- the Alcohol and other drugs education program, which builds Years 7–12 students' awareness and understanding of the impacts of alcohol and other drug use, their capacity to make responsible, safe and informed decisions and their ability to effectively manage challenging situations
- implemented the final year of the Artist in Residence Fund, a partnership with the Australia Council to provide arts funding for kindergartens and schools
- provided the Prep-Year 10 Literacy Continuum to support ongoing literacy improvement in schools
- ran family literacy programs through the State Library of Queensland, such as the \$20 million First 5 Forever initiative, which supports parents and primary caregivers in their important role as educator for children under five
- developed *Supporting successful transitions* resources for schools, parents and early childhood services to strengthen collaboration and enhance children's continuity of learning
- provided access to kindergarten in 11 state schools through the Remote Kindy Pilot
- released an Australian-first television series, Sally & Possum, on ABC Kids to enhance early literacy and numeracy for deaf and hard of hearing children learning AUSLAN
- continued to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes with NAPLAN performance lifting again, and increased the numbers of students successfully completing Year 12
- improved the percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Year 12 students achieving Certification (Queensland Certificate of Education and Queensland Certificate of Individual Attainment) from 86.5 per cent in 2014 to 94.9 per cent in 2015, exceeding the department's certification target of 93 per cent
- opened the Autism Hub to help build the confidence and capability of school communities to improve educational outcomes for students with autism
- launched the Reading Centre to provide specialist advice to parents and schools on how to teach reading and support readers, including strategies for students with dyslexia
- exceeded the target for children enrolled in kindergarten and increased participation by Indigenous and vulnerable and disadvantaged children
- launched, in partnership with Griffith University and Queensland University of Technology, a suite of seven online professional development and upskilling programs in STEM curriculum, with more than 2500 teachers across the state expected to participate in the \$3 million program
- partnered with local government to fund and support over 320 public libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Centres, including collections, services and professional development

#### **Building safe, caring and connected communities**

- continued to implement the MoneySmart Teaching program, a comprehensive strategy to develop consumer and financial literacy capabilities in young people throughout their schooling
- through the Queensland Music Festival, delivered a performing arts schools touring program, the Score It! statewide film scoring competition for primary and secondary school students and the Cape York Instrumental Music Program in partnership with the Cape York Academy
- developed and implemented Transition 2 Success, an alternative education and vocational training program for young people aged 14 to 18 years who are involved in the youth justice system
- established Principal Advisor, Student Protection positions in each education region, further strengthening capacity to respond to child protection matters, including those involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

[Read more about the Plan's goals, targets and measures for education.](#)

## Community

Queenslanders want to reduce disadvantage, create opportunity, embrace diversity and work together so no one is left behind. We want our communities to be vibrant places where the contribution of everyone is valued and we all have opportunities to enrich the lives of others.

Queenslanders seek a united, harmonious and inclusive community that is free from discrimination, violence, poverty and prejudice. Our communities are our heartland – places where the Queensland spirit shines through.

Building safe, caring and connected communities is one of the Queensland Government's objectives for the community. In 2015–16, the Queensland Government:

### **Creating jobs and a diverse economy**

- announced a reduction in fares in South East Queensland and zone consolidation, making it easier and more affordable for people to connect to employment, education and other essential services
- started developing Regional Transport Plans, which will respond to community needs and reflect each region's priorities
- engaged with local Indigenous peoples and businesses to support the local delivery and training outcomes of the Cape York Region Package, an road upgrade program jointly funded by the Australian Government
- worked with the Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council to enhance the technical capability of the local Indigenous crews as well as upgrade a critical piece of infrastructure, the Endeavour Valley Road, for the community
- supported Queensland's small-to-medium arts sector through the \$6.7 million Organisations Fund to create opportunities for local artists and cultural organisations, and the launch of the Queensland Arts Showcase Program to restore funding to the sector with more than \$2 million invested in 63 projects across the state
- continued to remove bureaucratic roadblocks and other barriers to home ownership on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land and created home ownership on freehold land to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders have access to home ownership

### **Delivering quality frontline services**

- enhanced frontline service delivery to the community, including additional teachers, teacher aides, nurses, doctors, allied health professionals, paramedics, police and firefighters
- partnered with the Queensland Family and Child Commission to deliver Oneplace, an online Community Services Directory of more than 46 000 community services to help Queensland families find and access the right service at the right time
- supported Foster and Kinship Carer Week, National Volunteering Week, Seniors Week, Carers Week, Disability Action Week, Child Protection Week, National Youth Week and Grandparents' Day
- continued to lead delivery and continuous improvement of information and services for Queenslanders via the seniors, youth, disability and community services franchises at [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au)
- commenced the early launch of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) from 1 January 2016 in Townsville, Charters Towers and Palm Island
- commissioned services to support people with high and complex disability support needs
- provided more than 2000 people with a disability with an increased choice of services through targeted support programs
- undertook a Joint Action Plan to find more suitable housing for people with a disability residing in health facilities
- implemented the Medical Director system, which provides the Specialist Disability Services Assessment and Outreach Team with document management, alerts and prioritisation of medical needs and the ability to directly request pathology, cytology and medical imaging services
- facilitated passage of the *Multicultural Recognition Act 2016*
- funded three new organisations over three years to deliver activities under the Community Action for a Multicultural Society program to strengthen social connectedness

- partnered with the State Library of Queensland and Telstra to establish the Tech Savvy Seniors Queensland program to help Queensland seniors develop digital literacy skills
- trialled a proactive approach where Queensland seniors are contacted when they turn 65 to notify them of concessions for which they may be eligible
- continued to assist pensioners, seniors, veterans and carers with cost-of-living expenses through a range of concession schemes
- provided additional funding over four years for initiatives to deliver the *Queensland: an age-friendly community* strategy and the recommendations from the Parliamentary inquiry into the adequacy of existing financial protections for Queensland's seniors
- launched the Stolen Wages Scheme, a reparations scheme for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people whose wages and savings were controlled under a range of racially discriminatory and coercive 'Protection Acts', which had been in force between 1897 and 1986
- launched an innovative online portal that allows land users, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parties, and members of the public to instantly access cultural heritage information maintained under the cultural heritage Acts
- provided funding to support structured sport and active recreation programs across 38 indigenous communities in Queensland and the Torres Strait region
- delivered the Get Going Clubs program, funding 540 local clubs providing initiatives that support sport and active recreation participation, and build organisational capacity
- supported 78 state-level sport and recreation organisations in the delivery and development of sport and active recreation across the state
- launched the Start Playing, Stay Playing Excellence Awards and launched the Join the Movement campaign to encourage women and girls to increase participation in sport and active recreation
- implemented recommendations of the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry through the Supporting Families, Changing Futures reform program as well as a range of new initiatives to deliver on the intent of the reforms
- reviewed policy issues arising from the work of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and the implications of any relevant recommendations made
- launched the Queensland Women's Strategy 2016–21 with a vision to make Queensland a place where all women and girls are respected, gender equality is embraced, and the rights, interests and wellbeing of women and girls are promoted and protected
- held the first Queensland Women's Week with YWCA Queensland, including events for women and girls across Queensland
- hosted more than 1.2 million visitors at four major musicals and the biennial Out of the Box Festival for children at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre
- achieved visitation of more than 600 000 people to the eighth Asia Pacific Triennial exhibition (APT8) at the Queensland Art Gallery, drawing critical acclaim as one of Australia's most important exhibitions

#### **Building safe, caring and connected communities**

- implemented the Government Champion program to strengthen the whole-of-government response to improving Indigenous outcomes in discrete communities
- launched the Amber Alert system to help locate abducted or high-risk missing children in imminent danger
- worked to make communities safer by continuing to tackle alcohol-fuelled violence around key entertainment precincts, targeting serious and organised crime, and maintaining the Polair 2 police helicopter
- focused on road safety initiatives as part of a continuing commitment to eliminate the human road toll of death and debilitating injury on our road network
- released the *Working together for better housing and sustainable communities* discussion paper and conducted extensive public consultation to inform the development of a new 10-year Queensland Housing Strategy
- set up an independent tenancy advisory service for Queensland tenants
- progressed initiatives to build resilient communities and ensure community preparedness for disaster events including:

- partnered with local governments across the state to provide guidance and support in the development of Local Disaster Management Plans (LDMP), including supporting Indigenous communities to conduct hazard risk assessments as part of their LDMP
- conducted Operation Cool Burn, designated from 1 April to 31 July each year, driving a proactive focus on community education and assisting landowners and occupiers to plan hazard mitigation, reducing the risk of bushfire in prone locations
- expanded the Risk Evaluation and Disaster Information portal (REDI-PORTAL), a mapping and information tool that assists bushfire managers and agency stakeholders
- modernised communications and social media capabilities, and improved mechanisms to enhance interoperability with recovery organisations
- developed the DeployMe application to provide Community Recovery Ready Reserve members with access to information about disaster events and community profiles
- developed the Community Recovery Grants Portal to make it easier for people to access and receive community recovery financial assistance and support services online or over the phone via the Community Recovery Hotline
- promoted a range of preparedness and resilience initiatives including the Queensland State Disaster Management Plan, the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience, the RACQ Get Ready Queensland campaign and local government activities
- trialed intensive case management at Caboolture Youth Justice Service Centre with serious young offenders
- continued the Abandoned Mine Lands Program, comprising assessment and close-out of public safety risks for abandoned and disclaimed mines
- helped fund community sport and recreation infrastructure developments including upgrades to statewide national parks infrastructure, Brisbane Racing Club – Eagle Farm, walking tracks on Magnetic Island, new or upgraded sport and facility projects through the *Get Playing Places and Spaces* program, the Townsville Sports and Recreation Precinct, Queensland State Netball Centre, Rockhampton Riverfront and Yeppoon Foreshore Revitalisation and support for the development of the North Queensland Stadium
- provided Kowanyama State School students with a fit-for-purpose, all-terrain school bus to safely and comfortably take up to 19 students on unsealed roads and across washed out creek beds to other remote schools in the Cape York region
- redeveloped the Sport and Recreation Sponsorship Guidelines to support participation initiatives and events, enhance the focus on regional areas, and recognise stronger community and social cohesion outcomes
- introduced Murri Courts in 13 locations across the state, providing opportunities for members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community (including Elders and victims) to participate in a court process that requires defendants to take responsibility for their offending behaviour but which respects and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture
- strengthened the justice system's response to domestic and family violence in Queensland, including:
  - trialing a specialist domestic and family violence court at Southport
  - providing funding to expand the Domestic Violence Duty Lawyer Service across the state through Legal Aid Queensland
  - establishing an independent Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board, comprised of multi-disciplinary experts, to review deaths occurring in a domestic and family violence context to identify common systemic failures, gaps or issues and make recommendations to improve systems, practices and procedures to prevent future deaths
  - introducing a range of amendments to legislation governing domestic and family violence offences
- continued to protect consumers in the marketplace
- improved support for victims of crime by engaging with the victim services sector
- continued the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) Justice of the Peace trial project that improves access to timely justice services by providing for JPs to hear some minor civil dispute matters before the tribunal
- responded to the Commission of Inquiry into Organised Crime in Queensland and supported the high-level taskforce established to review the criminal organisation laws

- provided community and personal histories services through researchers and archivists assisting Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people reconnect with their families and traditional country
- led the Cultural Agency Leaders committee to implement the Queensland Government Cultural Capability Framework across Queensland to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural considerations and perspectives are an inherent part of core business
- undertook a review to examine the effectiveness of Alcohol Management Plans in communities to identify strategies to reduce the supply of, and demand for, alcohol, and reduce the harm associated with alcohol misuse
- promoted Dry Place Declarations through a factsheet, web content, an operational procedure and a regional engagement strategy. A dry place is a house where no alcohol is allowed and is available in all the discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, as well as Mossman Gorge and Coen.
- funded the Opportunity Hub, to support community members to access economic and social opportunities, and the Parenting Program, to build the capacity of parents and carers of children and young people. Both programs are part of the Welfare Reform initiative, which covers four Cape York communities, Aurukun, Hope Vale, Coen and Mossman Gorge
- supported the whole-of-government effort to achieve sustainable calm in Aurukun, working in collaboration with community leaders, including Aurukun Shire Council, Federal Government departments, community organisations and service providers
- continued to promote the NDIS to Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people by participating in a number of whole-of-government forums
- established at least one Community Policing Board in each of the 15 police districts, providing the opportunity for local organisations and individuals to work together with police on strategies to address crime and safety issues
- led investigations, in partnership with the Police Citizens Youth Club, to identify and assess opportunities for private sector investment to fund a new facility in Fortitude Valley, Brisbane
- assessed a market-led proposal to revitalise the Queensland Aquarium and Maritime Museum and showcase the diversity of Queensland's rivers, islands, reefs and ocean environments

[Read more about the Plan's goals, targets and measures for community.](#)

## Regions

Our regions are one of Queensland's greatest strategic assets to position the state for growth in a new century. Queenslanders' vision for our regions is that they will have strong and diverse economies with sustainable economic growth and reliable, accessible infrastructure. Our regions are key population centres and transport, communication and service hubs, critical to Queensland's economy and future. However, our regions also face challenges in maintaining a critical mass of population as more people move to cities.

The Queensland Government is committed to tackling infrastructure constraints and delivering projects that will be catalysts for economic growth and jobs in our regions. In 2015–16, the Queensland Government:

### **Creating jobs and a diverse economy**

- promoted Queensland agriculture by supporting trade missions to key markets (including China, Japan and India), and by hosting international business people and delegations from a range of countries
- promoted expansion of tourism in the regions by hosting overseas investment delegations, such as a Chinese investment mission which inspected a range of tourism and ecotourism investment opportunities in Cairns, the Whitsundays and the Gold Coast in June 2016
- established a North West Minerals Province Taskforce and interdepartmental committee to assess the options to meet the changing environment of the resource sector in the North West
- delivered workshops to 447 owners and staff (307 businesses) to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business development and growth, including on:
  - Tendering to Government
  - Capability Statement Development
  - Business Growth
  - Joint Ventures (in collaboration with the Queensland Resources Council)
  - Traditional Owner Governance and Development (with the Queensland Resources Council)
- implemented the Exploration Industry Expenditure Concession that removes some cost pressures being faced by the exploration sector due to the global commodity downturn
- announced an investigation into the possibility of a new State Development Area around the Port of Bundaberg
- commenced a competitive tender process in the Gulf Water resource plan area for up to 264 500 megalitres of unallocated water to support economic development in the region
- provided grants to the Mackay and Rockhampton Regional Councils to upgrade cycling infrastructure

### **Delivering quality frontline services**

- continued the Drought Assistance Package to support farm businesses, families and communities through drought relief assistance, electricity charges, land rent and water licence fee relief, rural financial counselling, mental health support, and community and educational assistance
- enhanced services by implementing and evaluating six new service outlet pilot models (customer centres, self-service and video kiosks, a mobile vehicle service, and partnerships with local and federal government) in the Scenic Rim and Lockyer Valley
- improved services at Queensland Government Agent Program offices in Ayr and Ingham, enabling communities to access a wider range of services in a single location
- established a Local Fare Scheme in Cape York and Torres Strait to improve the standard of living of local residents by making air travel to neighbouring communities to access health, education and employment facilities more affordable
- commenced delivery of the Western Roads Upgrade Program – \$40 million over two years from 2015–16 for targeted road network upgrades focusing on roads widening and sealing, within western Queensland local government areas, including upgrades to:
  - Gulf Developmental Road (Croydon to Georgetown)
  - Wills Developmental Road (Burke and Wills Junction to Gregory)
  - Burke Developmental Road (Burke and Wills Junction to Normanton)
  - Wills Developmental Road (Julia Creek to Burke and Wills Junction)
  - Gregory Downs – Camooweal Road
  - Richmond – Winton Road

- Cloncurry – Dajarra Road (Cloncurry to Duchess)
- Diamantina Developmental Road (Bedourie – Boulia)
- Eyre Developmental Road (Bedourie – Birdsville)
- Diamantina Developmental Road (Charleville – Quilpie)
- Diamantina Developmental Road (Quilpie – Windorah)
- Diamantina Developmental Road (Charleville – Quilpie)
- Bulloo Developmental Road (Cunnamulla – Thargomindah)
- Balonne Highway (Bollon to Cunnamulla)
- Mitchell Highway (Barrington – Cunnamulla)

### **Protecting the environment**

- assisted industry to achieve environmental certification of their wood products by providing grants as part of the Queensland Timber and Forest Industry Plan to help businesses develop systems and complete audits needed for certification
- delivered more than \$23 million in infrastructure to support parks and forests conservation and visitor experiences, including refurbished visitor facilities at Carnarvon National Park and Chillagoe-Mungana Caves National Park, and upgrading day-use and camping areas at Danbulla State Forest on the Atherton Tablelands and The Knoll in Tamborine National Park
- transferred 54 500 hectares of state-owned Sandstone East land to Traditional Owners (April 2016)
- collaborated with Indigenous councils to finalise the first ever planning schemes for six Indigenous Councils in Cape York, Torres Strait and Central Queensland
- endorsed Catalyst Infrastructure Program funding to support development of the Palmview residential development on the Sunshine Coast and the transformation of the James Cook University campus in Townsville
- worked in collaboration with the Townsville City Council and the Port of Townsville Authority to finalise the development scheme for the Townsville City Waterfront Priority Development Area, unlocking 97 hectares of land for urban renewal and economic development in the Townsville CBD

### **Building safe, caring and connected communities**

- commenced the development of Regional Transport Plans which will respond to the unique opportunities and challenges facing Queensland's diverse regions and shape the development of the transport network over the next 15 years
- increased Transport Infrastructure Delivery Scheme funding to \$70 million per annum, effectively doubling investment in regionally-significant local government road and transport infrastructure, with funding contributing to 279 projects across the state in 2015–16
- completed the development of a suite of Principal Cycle Network Plans covering almost 99 per cent of Queenslanders and undertook collaborative prioritisation of the Principal Cycle Network to inform draft action plans for state and local governments
- expanded the Cycle Network Local Government Grants Program (previously South East Queensland only) to include all local governments with a Principal Cycle Network, awarding \$2.7 million towards 12 cycling infrastructure projects nominated by local governments outside of South East Queensland
- established a Memorandum of Understanding with Maranoa Regional Council to support the delivery of a number of transport projects
- held 13 Regional Employment Forums to hear directly from regional communities about ideas and opportunities to drive employment growth, which led to the announcement of the Back to Work Regional Employment Package, a two-year \$100 million package to drive employment growth and provide an economic stimulus
- delivered the Building our Regions Program, with more than \$70 million funding committed to support 42 projects, and the investment expected to attract a further \$158 million in investment from local governments and other organisations
- established the \$180 million Significant Regional Infrastructure Projects Program under the State Infrastructure Fund
- assisted 38 local governments to respond and recover following eight natural disaster events



- successfully negotiated a policy exemption allowing local governments to use their own staff to deliver reconstruction works under the Federal Government's Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements
- worked in collaboration with local governments to complete three Regional Water Supply Security Assessments to assist those local governments to plan for their communities' long term water supply needs, with a further 12 assessments now underway
- operated six retail stores in the six discrete remote communities of Woorabinda, Palm Island, Lockhart River, Pormpuraaw, Kowanyama and Doomadgee to ensure residents have access to quality food and household necessities
- invested \$2.5 million through the Playing Queensland Fund in support of 1379 touring arts experiences in 394 visits to regional communities and \$2.08 million in locally-led arts and cultural experiences in partnership with 59 local governments through the Regional Arts Development Fund

[Read more about the Plan's goals, targets and measures for regions.](#)

## Economy

Queenslanders want to have a strong performing and diverse economy with the best jobs on offer. We want to focus on industry development and diversification, with centres of excellence that drive innovation.

Success will come from building on our strengths and turning our ideas into commercial enterprises.

Queenslanders recognise that our proximity to Asia provides key opportunities for growth. Our skilled workforce and reputation as a reliable and competitive supplier of resources demonstrate our state is a dynamic place to invest.

Creating jobs and a diverse economy is one of the Queensland Government's objectives for the community. In 2015–16, the Queensland Government:

### Creating jobs and a diverse economy

- continued to implement the Jobs Now, Jobs for the Future Employment Strategy, including the Working Queensland Jobs Plan
- launched the Advance Queensland initiative, with initial funding of \$180 million, to turn Queensland ideas, technology and knowledge into products and services that build businesses, attract investment, enable global competitiveness and ultimately create jobs
- established the Rural Jobs and Skills Alliance in conjunction with industry to ensure there is a collaborative approach to identifying where businesses have difficulties in recruiting appropriately-skilled workers and seasonal labour
- developed the North Stradbroke Island Workers Assistance Scheme to support workers affected by the cessation of sandmining on North Stradbroke Island
- supported workers affected by the closure of Queensland Nickel including the provision of case management support and coordination of support and advice across the three levels of government
- successfully negotiated the attraction of Southern Oil Refining's \$16 million Advanced Biofuels Pilot Plant to be built in Gladstone
- launched the Queensland Tourism and Transport Strategy Discussion Paper, *Transport and Tourism: Creating a World Class Visitor Experience* and started development of the Queensland Tourism and Transport Strategy
- led investigations, including scoping studies, for economic development opportunities in the Southern Gulf region including enabling infrastructure to expand phosphate mining and live cattle export industries
- through the Queensland Defence Industries Envoy, affirmed Queensland's support for Singapore (under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the Australian and Singapore governments) to invest \$2.25 billion to expand operations in Australia – including at Townsville and at the Shoalwater Bay Training Area near Rockhampton – over the next 25 years
- delivered the 2015 *DestinationQ* Forum to support the Queensland tourism industry to position itself in national and international markets
- promoted the state's land and maritime defence capabilities through Defence Industries Queensland (e.g., hosting 14 companies on a trade stand at the Pacific 2015 International Maritime Exposition)
- supported the Asia Pacific Cities Summit and Mayors' Forum, held by Brisbane City Council from 5–8 July 2015, which was attended by more than 1300 delegates from more than 135 international and Australian cities
- submitted projects and packages to the Australian Government for funding consideration under the *Northern Australia: Our North, Our Future: White Paper on Developing Northern Australia*
  - under the \$600 million Northern Australia Roads Program, improvements to key freight routes, such as the Barkly, Flinders, Landsborough, Gregory, Peak Downs and Capricorn Highways and the Gregory and Kennedy Developmental Roads, and projects in the regions
  - under the \$100 million Northern Australia Beef Roads Program, a submission developed in collaboration with stakeholders and peak bodies to improve cattle supply chains
- progressed the delivery of 75 new six-car passenger trains and completed the construction of a purpose-built maintenance Centre at Wulkuraka, west of Ipswich, for the New Generation Rollingstock project, generating up to 500 full-time jobs, including 150 ongoing full-time jobs at Wulkuraka for 30 years

- launched a number of Advance Queensland programs to foster entrepreneurship, including the Ignite Ideas Fund to support commercialisation of new ideas, Young Starters' Fund to build entrepreneurial and technology startup skills in young Queenslanders, and HotDesQ to attract international and interstate entrepreneurial talent to Queensland
- built global innovation collaborations through Advance Queensland Global Partnership Awards, and international partnerships, including Siemens Healthcare, Emory University, Johnson & Johnson, the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology and YouTube
- held the Advance Queensland Innovation and Investment Summit in April 2016, attracting more than 1700 attendees from 17 countries and more than 150 quality Innovation Showcase exhibitors
- established the Advance Queensland Expert Panel to provide recommendations to government on future directions, opportunities and challenges in regard to science, innovation, economic development and the growth of the knowledge economy and jobs
- continued the whole-of-government open data agenda to stimulate innovation, research and startups, and improve government service delivery
- approved the Queen's Wharf Brisbane Priority Development Area Development Scheme to facilitate the delivery of the \$3 billion Queen's Wharf Brisbane Integrated Resort Development, and worked with the Destination Brisbane Consortium to progress this transformative urban tourism precinct with connectivity and commercial benefits
- through the Coordinator-General, approved Environmental Impact Statements for the \$347 million Sunshine Coast Airport Expansion project and the Santos Gas Field Development project, with potential to create around 3900 jobs
- incentivised private sector support by matching eligible cash sponsorship and philanthropy dollar for dollar through the Arts Leverage Fund, with \$2.2 million invested in 22 arts companies that together leveraged in excess of \$8.7 million in funding
- partnered with industry to secure employment and training opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander jobseekers and facilitated a total of 1021 jobs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders, exceeding the target of 400 jobs
- negotiated employment and business supply outcomes for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people in building and civil construction and other employment projects outside of discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and leveraged government spending to bring about employment opportunities and growth and development opportunities for Indigenous businesses
- worked with Traditional Owners and other stakeholders to identify and transfer land for employment and business opportunities and nature conservation
- provided a 25 per cent payroll tax rebate for apprentices and trainees with the rebate being doubled to 50 per cent for the 2016–17 financial year for those employers in the state providing employment opportunities for apprentices or trainees
- supported the reviews by the Queensland Productivity Commission into electricity pricing and a fair price for solar, and is preparing a response
- launched the State Library of Queensland's Business Studio, a new Enterprise Centre to support business, social enterprise and creative industries
- launched programs under Advance Queensland to increase the state's talented research base and link research to industry, including the Advance Queensland Research Fellowships, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Fellowships, PhD Scholarships, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander PhD Scholarships, Innovation Partnerships, Women's Academic Fund and Knowledge Transfer Partnerships
- established the \$40 million Business Development Fund to invest in innovative, high growth businesses based in Queensland, with funding matched from private sector co-investors. The first investments were \$2.5 million for Brisbane-based firm Tritium, which produces super-speed Veefil charging stations for electric cars, and \$500 000 for JESI Management Solutions' journey management software project, which uses mobile phone technology to help companies safeguard their employees on the road by monitoring their journeys in real time
- released the *Draft International Education and Training Strategy to Advance Queensland 2016–26* for public consultation

- signed international agreements to advance Queensland's capabilities internationally, between the Queensland Government and the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ (Japan), SoftBank Robotics (Japan), the Korea Development Bank and Human Resource Development Service of Korea respectively
- ensured Queensland businesses could develop skills in capability statements and tendering to win supply contracts to major projects
- delivered industry-wide capability development workshops for businesses currently engaged in or considering engaging with resources, construction and government procurement
- secured eight new or expanded airline services, through the Attracting Aviation Investment Fund, with:
  - Hong Kong Airlines: Hong Kong-Gold Coast-Cairns charter service
  - Hong Kong Airlines: Hong Kong-Gold Coast-Cairns scheduled service
  - Qantas: Christchurch to Brisbane
  - China Eastern: Shanghai to Brisbane
  - Singapore Airlines: Singapore to Brisbane
  - EVA Air: Taipei to Brisbane
  - AirAsia X: Kuala Lumpur to Gold Coast
  - Jin Air: Seoul to Cairns
- successfully secured the best matches of the Rugby League World Cup 2017 with games to be split between Cairns, Townsville and Brisbane
- secured the IRONMAN Asia-Pacific Championships for Cairns for three years (2016-18) as an extension to the Cairns Airport Adventure Festival
- developed and launched the *Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy 2016–20* to create an environment for small business to start, grow and employ

#### **Delivering quality frontline services**

- created a new electricity business, Energy Queensland, merged from Energex and Ergon Energy, which will proactively respond to the needs of a changing energy market, put customers first, and reduce costs to Queenslanders
- fostered new agricultural industries in northern Australia through piloting a one-stop service in Mareeba to assist private sector initiatives with land and water development and approval processes
- implemented the wind farm code and guideline to facilitate investment in renewable energy projects
- delivered the Mentoring for Growth program, bringing small business operators into contact with experienced business mentors
- delivered the 2016 Queensland Small Business Week, with more than 5000 participants attending 104 registered activities and events across the state
- continued improving online service delivery for business, with the Business Queensland website catering for 4.4 million users, providing 1382 services and facilitating 85 000 online transactions through the SmartForms platform
- provided an additional 2733 Queensland business services on the national licence database, the Australian Business Licence and Information Service
- collaborated with industry to deliver the ConstructionQ 2015 Forum for 120 participants from the building construction industry to review the industry's 20-year blueprint, workshop current initiatives, and identify key areas requiring further consideration
- realised 23 081 hours worked by 83 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees, apprentices and trainees (an equivalent value of \$1.04 million) on 34 completed projects, and \$75 955 of goods and services supplied by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses
- instituted an ethanol mandate which requires the fuel industry to meet targets for the sale of biobased petrol and diesel
- invested in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and culture through the \$12.6 million four-year (2015–16 – 2018–19) Backing Indigenous Arts initiative to build sustainable and ethical Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts industries
- committed an additional \$1.2 million to Queensland Ballet to increase its base funding enabling employment of additional dancers, increased number of performances and tours

- implemented the Arts Business Innovation Fund to strengthen the financial capacity of small to medium arts businesses through a grant and zero interest loan facility
- administered \$30 million over four years to Screen Australia to attract large-scale film and high-end television productions
- commenced a business case to consider a new performing arts venue for Brisbane to maximise cultural tourism opportunities

**Building safe, caring and connected communities**

- led recovery efforts in response to a number of severe weather events ensuring state-owned assets and infrastructure were back up and running as soon as possible

[Read more about the Plan's goals, targets and measures for economy.](#)

## Health and wellbeing

Queenslanders' vision for health and wellbeing includes, as well as taking personal responsibility for our health and wellbeing, maintaining a health system among the best in the world that supports our quality of life and individual and community wellbeing. The demand for health services is increasing as Queensland's population continues to grow and age.

Queenslanders also highly value a natural environment that inspires an active lifestyle and supports healthy communities.

The Queensland Government is focused on providing a comprehensive whole-of-government and whole-of-community approach to ensure that services are patient centred, readily accessible and affordable for all sectors of society. In 2015–16, the Queensland Government:

### Delivering quality frontline services

- Launched a 10-year strategic health framework, *My Health, Queensland's future: advancing health 2026*. The framework aims for Queenslanders to be among the healthiest people in the world, and is underpinned by principles of sustainability, compassion, inclusion, excellence and empowerment
- invested an additional \$560.6 million to ensure our health and ambulance services continue to provide the highest quality healthcare across the state, and meet the growing demand for services. The investment grew the total operating budget for Queensland Health in 2015-16 to \$14.183 billion
- continued to improve health services across the priority areas of:

#### *Nursing Workforce*

- recruiting 16 nurse educators across Hospital and Health Services to coach, mentor and support up to 4000 additional graduate nurses and midwives to be recruited over the next four years
- recruiting the first 50 of 400 new nurse navigators to facilitate the patient journey across the health sector, and educate patients on their condition and to improve health literacy
- recruiting 31 additional registered nurses to deliver the Primary School Nurse Health Readiness Program
- enacting legislation that mandates nurse-to-patient ratios in Queensland public hospitals

#### *Preventative Health*

- delivering the Health for Life! – Taking Action on Diabetes Program targeted at Queenslanders at high risk of developing Type 2 diabetes
- introducing the *Public Health (Childcare Vaccination and Other Legislation) Amendment Bill 2015* to protect vulnerable Queenslanders from preventable diseases
- passing legislation to extend the range of smoke-free places in Queensland and to require food business to display the kilojoule content of their food and drinks.
- delivering a range of preventive health initiatives including 10,000 Steps, Heart Foundation Walking Groups and social marketing campaigns to promote consumption of fruit and vegetables
- encouraging Queenslanders to make healthy choices to mitigate health problems before more expensive hospital based care is required

#### *Patient Safety*

- establishing the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Service
- engaging the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards to conduct an audit of the patient safety and quality improvement functions of all Hospital and Health Services

#### *Mental Health*

- increasing residential rehabilitation care for young people in Townsville through a partnership with Mind Australia
- undertaking the biggest mental health reform in 15 years by overhauling the *Mental Health Act 2000*, following the introduction of the *Mental Health Bill 2015*
- increasing respite care for Queenslanders living with dementia or neurodegenerative conditions, to support Queensland seniors and to address the needs of their carers

- supported patient care by investing \$361.2 million over four years for the *Specialist Outpatient Strategy*, to reduce the number of patients waiting longer than clinically recommended for a specialist outpatient and improve the patient journey
- invested \$5 million to get more patients into post-discharge cardiac rehabilitation programs
- provided statewide training to enhance the capacity of frontline clinical staff to recognise, assess and manage people at risk of suicide
- committed to establishing a medicinal cannabis trial in Queensland
- commenced a tele-chemotherapy service to Thursday Island and the Torres Strait with support by a medical specialist in Cairns, supplementing tele-chemotherapy programs in Weipa and Cooktown
- released a draft *Queensland Sexual Health Strategy 2016–21* for consultation
- progressed a single source of patient records to improve patient care through the implementation of the integrated electronic medical record (ieMR) project at both the Princess Alexandra and Cairns Hospitals
- released the *eHealth Investment Strategy* to ensure the health ICT environment enables the delivery of quality and efficient health services
- advanced key infrastructure planning priorities under the \$180 million Enhancing Regional Hospitals Program for a new hospital at Roma and upgrades at the Gladstone Hospital and Hervey Bay Hospital emergency departments and Caloundra Hospital
- opened a \$134 million children's health research centre at the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital, and announced up to \$20 million a year over four years to provide 31 new overnight beds at the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital
- supported research through the investment and leveraging of funding for health and medical research including through Junior Research Fellowships, Nursing and Midwifery and Physiotherapy Research Fellowships, and appointment of an investment manager to support the Medical Research Commercialisation Fund
- helped build a strong Queensland profile in emerging healthcare areas by committing \$25 million over five years to establish the Queensland Genomics Health Alliance to advance genomics
- approved more than 1100 research proposals in public hospitals, focussing on public health and health services, clinical sciences and oncology
- enhanced ambulance services by recruiting an additional 75 ambulance officers to provide enhanced roster coverage, plus a further 40 ambulance officers as part of the department's demand management strategies
- commissioned 155 new and replacement ambulance vehicles
- handed down the *Paramedic Safety Taskforce Final Report*, setting the vision and direction for an overarching strategy to stop violent attacks against paramedics
- completed the rollout of operational iPads to more than 3000 paramedics enabling them real time in-field access to communications and training
- expanded the Higher Acuity Response Unit to service the Gold Coast using critical care paramedics to provide advanced lifesaving medical care to seriously injured patients
- completed the statewide rollout of replacement defibrillators for Queensland Ambulance Service
- completed construction of the Miriam Vale Ambulance Station and Russell Island Ambulance Station and residence replacement
- supported mental health, drug and alcohol services by establishing new Drug and Alcohol Intervention Teams in the emergency departments at Logan, Rockhampton and Townsville Hospitals, enhanced these services at Gold Coast University Hospital, and funded new alcohol and other drug clinical and prevention positions across five Hospital and Health Services
- commenced update of the *Queensland Suicide Prevention Action Plan*
- implemented the *Queensland Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Strategic Plan 2014–19*
- launched the *Queensland Alcohol and Other Drugs Action Plan 2015–17*
- supported Indigenous health care with the release and implementation of the *Making Tracks towards closing the gap in health outcomes for Indigenous Queenslanders by 2033 - Investment Strategy 2015–18*, which is providing more than \$200 million over the three years to June 2018 for Indigenous-targeted health services and programs

- released the *North Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sexually Transmissible Infections Action Plan 2016–21* which is supported by \$15.7 million over the first three years
- launched a new referral process enabling police at an incident scene to refer a person in need to an appropriate support service for assistance

#### **Building safe, caring and connected communities**

- provided a safe and reliable drinking water to the Pormpuraaw community with capital upgrades to the water infrastructure and designed and constructed a fit-for-purpose, fit-for-place solid waste facility upgrade at Pormpuraaw
- undertook minor wastewater treatment improvements in Cherbourg and Palm Island
- supported engagement with nature, active lifestyles and wellbeing by hosting a record 1.5 million overnight camper stays on Queensland's parks and forests
- continued to provide funding support for a partnership between the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health and the Brisbane Broncos to promote healthy lifestyles and ongoing engagement with health services for Indigenous Queenslanders
- implemented organisation-wide communication and training, in support of Recommendation 22 of the *Not Now, Not Ever: Putting an End to Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland*, a recommendation that communication is implemented through all front-line services
- increased capacity of Queensland Ambulance Service disaster management equipment through the design and purchase of three fit-for-purpose multi-casualty incident trailers strategically located within the Torres and Cape Local Ambulance Service Network
- Implemented trauma-informed practice across all youth justice operations
- continued to work with department partners to develop integrated responses to domestic and family violence in a number of locations including the three trial sites of Logan-Beenleigh, Mount Isa and Cherbourg
- began priority rollout of improved safety equipment for police, with body-worn cameras provided to police on the Gold Coast

[Read more about the Plan's goals, targets and measures for health and wellbeing.](#)



## Environment

Preserving our environment is essential and Queenslanders recognise their role as stewards of our unique natural assets, particularly the Great Barrier Reef. Queenslanders' vision for the environment includes being world leaders in renewable energy and sustainable business practices. To do this, we need to ensure new urban developments are eco-oriented and sustainable, harness our natural power, preserve our unique heritage and have the infrastructure to support growing industries.

Protecting the environment is one of the Queensland Government's objectives for the community. In 2015–16, the Queensland Government:

### Creating jobs and a diverse economy

- commenced investigating a Shared Services Hub model to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander local governments and Registered Native Title Body Corporates to undertake land tenure, land use planning and the associated administration matters
- released a discussion paper, *Advancing Climate Action in Queensland: Making the transition to a low carbon future*, to seek input from the public on developing the right strategies to achieve a low carbon future
- provided access to the State's data archive of more than 100 000 soil descriptions and land resource reports through the Soils Globe
- continued to deliver Regulated Vegetation Management Maps freely online for user specified properties, with more than 5000 maps provided each month
- developed an interactive statewide land use map for Queensland, allowing users to zoom into places of interest and toggle between different base maps

### Protecting the environment

- facilitated the delivery of the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce final report, outlining 10 recommendations for improving reef water quality and investing an additional \$100 million over five years
- increased the protected area estate by 421 449 hectares, with protected areas covering 7.92 per cent of Queensland and nature refuges declared more than 4 million hectares of privately-owned land
- established the Wet Tropics Healthy Waterways Partnership to provide vital information on the health of waterways in the Wet Tropics. The new partnership is one of four regional report card partnerships which are an action under the *Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan*
- led the development and passage of the *Sustainable Ports Development Act 2015* to implement key port-related actions of the *Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan* ensuring the Outstanding Universal Value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area is an intrinsic consideration in future port development, and requiring master plans be developed for the priority ports of Gladstone, Abbot Point, Townsville and Hay Point-Mackay
- established a Local Government Coastal Hazard Climate Adaptation Fund (\$4 million a year over three years) to assist local councils with the development of coastal hazard adaption strategies and projects
- committed \$1 million a year over three years to develop and implement a Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy in collaboration with local governments and key stakeholder groups
- revised and declared new erosion prone areas and coastal management district mapping to re-introduce a projected sea level rise factor of 0.8 metres to 2100 to inform planning and development assessment decisions
- led the development and passage of the *Environmental Protection (Chain of Responsibility) Amendment Act 2016* to ensure related parties with a significant interest or influence can be held accountable for environmental obligations
- undertook the largest and most complex environmental prosecution ever undertaken, with Linc Energy Limited committed to stand trial on charges of wilfully and unlawfully causing serious environmental harm at its former Chinchilla underground coal gasification site
- purchased Springvale Station – a significant investment that protects critical habitat for Queensland's unique fauna and flora and boosts the efforts to protect the Great Barrier Reef

- established the Waste Industry Compliance Investigation Taskforce to stamp out unlicensed waste activities, with 100 investigations completed resulting in 27 enforcement outcomes
- worked with industry, community and environmental groups and local governments to investigate a possible state-based container deposit scheme and the possible introduction of a lightweight plastic bag ban
- reviewed the way wastes and waste activities are regulated and managed with the aim of providing a more streamlined approach
- developed a new heritage database, Living Heritage Information System, which provides online access to digitised documents and images about Queensland heritage registered places
- released a new guideline, Financial assurance under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* to clarify which activities may need to pay financial assurance, give greater flexibility for industry on providing third party rates, and remove the need to calculate GST
- delivered Round 3 of the Everyone's Environment grants program, which supports communities and volunteers to help preserve their local environment
- established the Offset Project Management Committee to effectively manage funds derived from financial settlement offsets and provide recommendations for outsourcing strategic on-ground offset projects – 28 offset payments have been received, totalling \$2 317 653
- launched the *Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Prospectus*, which aims to attract corporate and philanthropic investment to expand the program
- released the final report of the Queensland Biosecurity Capability Review, along with the government's interim response for a sustainable the biosecurity system
- established the new Animal Welfare Advisory Board, comprising technical, community and industry representatives, to provide advice on animal welfare matters.
- continued to implement the sustainable fishing policy by establishing three net free zones in central and northern Queensland
- released the Statewide Land and Tree Study (SLATS) 2014–15, providing an analysis of the total changes in vegetation and clearing rates across the state
- mitigated key threats to the Great Barrier Reef and national park islands, delivering \$12 million in conservation and compliance actions as part of the \$17 million 50:50 funded State-Commonwealth Joint Great Barrier Reef Field Management Program, including responding to coral bleaching and Cape Upstart oil spill events
- delivered improved fire management in national parks with the launch of the new FLAME fire management system, spending more than \$1.5 million to upgrade and maintain high priority urban interface fire lines in key locations in South-East Queensland
- saw significant improvements to turtle hatching success in program sites – on average from 30 per cent to 89 per cent in some locations – through the \$7 million joint State Commonwealth Nest to Ocean Turtle Protection Program
- introduced plug-in hybrid electric vehicles to the State Government fleet
- finalised the Environmental Impact Statement for the Abbot Point Growth Gateway project to ensure the required port expansion can proceed while protecting the Great Barrier Reef and other surrounding ecosystems

[Read more about the Plan's goals, targets and measures for the environment.](#)

## People

People are Queensland's greatest asset. Queenslanders envision a society where everyone has access to everything needed to make the most of educational, health and job opportunities, and where the brightest minds thrive in an environment which values innovation and excellence. They also value a society where those from disadvantaged and marginalised backgrounds find dignity and respect through education and work, and the cycle of disadvantage is broken.

In 2015–16, the Queensland Government:

### **Creating jobs and a diverse economy**

- implemented *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative to support up to 32 000 Queenslanders into work over four years through a suite of targeted skills and training programs
- increased the supply of housing for disadvantaged Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by completing 201 new social housing dwellings and commencing construction of 99 dwellings on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- assisted 156 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to successfully transition into employment, training or higher education following Year 12 through the Youth Employment Program
- delivered the Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow Home Based Business program supporting stay-at-home parents to establish a new or develop an existing home-based business

### **Delivering quality frontline services**

- trialled new joined-up and proactive approaches to service delivery for vulnerable groups such as seniors, youths at risk of homelessness and people settling in Queensland
- supported Queensland elite athletes to prepare for the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- initiated work on a new women's re-entry service to help women leaving prison
- delivered *Queensland: an age-friendly community* Strategic Direction Statement and Action Plan
- responded to the Queensland Parliamentary Committee inquiry into the adequacy of existing financial protection for Queensland seniors to improve the ability of seniors to make informed financial choices and better protect vulnerable seniors – 41 of the 43 recommendations were supported or supported in principle
- invested in seniors' participation and support services, including an Elder Abuse Prevention Unit and hotline, an Older People's Action Program to help seniors at risk of social isolation and the 60 and Better Program which supports older people to develop and manage healthy ageing programs in their own communities
- delivered the 2016 Elder Abuse Prevention campaign, *There's no excuse for elder abuse*
- implemented the Death of A Loved One pilot (managing affairs after death) as a proactive way to support customers through a difficult time by identifying touch points in government and with commercial providers when finalising estates
- promoted digital capability at Queensland Government Service Centres with staff introducing and supporting customers in the use of self-service kiosks
- delivered *Get Started Vouchers*, providing financial support to those children and young people who can least afford, or may otherwise benefit from, joining a sport or recreation club
- supported children under the Young Athletes Travel Subsidy to compete in, or officiate at specific state, national or international events
- funded the Get Out, Get Active program and the Women and Girls Special Initiatives to encourage women and girls to increase participation in sport and active recreation
- developed and piloted the innovative Kicbox mobile application, in collaboration with young people, to empower them to reach their full potential by providing them with greater access to their own information, improving their sense of identity, and strengthening their relationship with the people who work with them in support of their wellbeing

### **Protecting the environment**

- supported Nature Play Qld to encourage young children and their families to engage in nature and the environment as well as learn practical life skills

#### **Building safe, caring and connected communities**

- instituted the State Penalties Enforcement Register outbound pilot as a proactive way to assist customers to manage their debt and avoid enforcement action
- continued to implement justice-related recommendations from the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry report, including establishing the Director of Child Protection Litigation to commence on 1 July 2016
- instituted diversionary processes and restorative justice, including:
  - Murri Court
  - Queensland Integrated Court Referrals (formerly Special Circumstances Court Diversion), and
  - court-ordered youth justice conferencing
- continued programs to reduce the likelihood of offending and reoffending
- established the Youth Justice First Nations Action Board to guide the government's priority focus on reducing over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the youth justice system
- established a Queensland Public Sector Inclusion Champions of Change group of Directors-General who are committed to leading new thinking and action on inclusion and diversity in the public sector
- commenced implementation of the wide-ranging recommendations of the *Not Now, Not Ever: Putting an End to Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland* report, and released the *Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2016–26*
- appointed Queensland's first Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence with responsibility for the coordination of the Government's rollout of its domestic violence reforms
- coordinated a community campaign to mark Domestic and Family Violence Month in May
- convened the Queensland Carers Advisory Council to provide advice on improving recognition and support for carers
- provided for development of young people's civic participation and leadership skills through the YMCA Youth Parliament and the Qld Indigenous Youth Leadership Program
- engaged young Queenslanders to inform the government's strategic direction for young people
- launched the Tech Savvy Seniors Queensland program to encourage older people to embrace information technology – the government (through the State Library of Queensland) and Telstra jointly funded \$580 000 of grants, supporting 38 councils to deliver free tech training for up to 15 000 seniors across Queensland
- released the Active Queensland Survey 2015, the first comprehensive scan of the levels of physical activity undertaken by Queensland adults.

[Read more about the Plan's goals, targets and measures for people.](#)

## Infrastructure

Queensland's infrastructure includes our energy, transport, communications and water assets, as well as our schools, hospitals and healthcare facilities. Queenslanders' vision for infrastructure is that all Queenslanders will have access to the services they need through world-class infrastructure. Our infrastructure will drive economic growth and be a key enabler in the digital economy.

Infrastructure and services need to encompass the significant distances that separate our regional communities. Our seasonal weather sees flooding isolate entire communities, cause extreme heat damage to our roads and increase demand on our power generators. Population growth and lifestyle changes will continue to increase demand for infrastructure and services.

In 2015–16, the Queensland Government:

### Creating jobs and a diverse economy

- released the *State Infrastructure Plan* to manage Queensland's future growth
- established the State Infrastructure Fund with an initial investment of \$500 million, subsequently increased to \$2 billion, including a Priority Economic Works and Productivity Program and a Significant Regional Infrastructure Projects Minutes of The Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council for comment prior to sending to Chair. established an Infrastructure Portfolio Office to monitor the implementation of the *State Infrastructure Plan* and drive infrastructure innovation and best practice across Government
- established the Infrastructure Cabinet Committee with responsibility for driving the state's infrastructure program, ensuring whole-of-government integration of infrastructure planning and delivery
- formally established Building Queensland, under the *Building Queensland Act 2015*, to provide independent expert advice to the government on infrastructure priorities and major infrastructure projects, including Cross River Rail and the European Train Control System
- commenced the development of Regional Transport Plans across Queensland which will guide the future development of the transport system
- progressed delivery of roads and transport projects, in a funding partnership with the Federal Government, including:
  - the 10-year \$8.5 billion Bruce Highway upgrade program (2013–14 to 2022–23)
  - the five-year \$635 million Warrego Highway upgrade program (2014–15 to 2018–19)
  - the five-year \$260.5 million Cape York Region Package (2014–15 to 2018–19)
  - \$1.606 billion Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, a bypass route to the north of Toowoomba
  - \$1.143 billion Gateway Upgrade North, widening the Gateway Motorway between Nudgee and Bracken Ridge
- progressed delivery of roads and transport projects, fully funded by the Queensland Government including:
  - \$4.156 billion for the New Generation Rollingstock project
  - \$160.7 million over three years (2015–16 to 2017–18) for a package of transport infrastructure works on the Gold Coast in the lead up to the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in April 2018
- finalised maritime safety infrastructure in the Port of Gladstone and facilitated export access to three Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facilities on Curtis Island in preparation for the commenced shipments of LNG
- completed key cycling projects on the state-controlled network – Stage 1 – Samford to Ferny Grove Cycleway and David Low Way – Maroochydore River to Godfreys Avenue, and continued construction of major cycling infrastructure, including the Veloway 1 Bikeway and North Brisbane Bikeway
- provided grants to local governments for new cycling infrastructure including: Norman Creek Crossing by Brisbane City Council, Brassall Bikeway Stage 4 by Ipswich City Council, and a cycleway connecting Brinsmead to Redlynch in Cairns completed through Active Towns Pilot Program
- progressed the construction of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games venues including the development of three new venues, Carrara Precinct, Coomera Indoor Sports Stadium and the Queensland State Velodrome at Chandler in Brisbane, and major upgrades to a further seven venues
- continued development of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games village

- progressed funding discussions for the \$250 million North Queensland Stadium with the Australian Government, Townsville City Council, the National Rugby League and other potential funding contributors
- progressed delivery of the \$1.8 billion Sunshine Coast University Hospital, which will open with 450 beds in April 2017, growing to 738 beds by 2021
- completed the \$514.3 million Cairns Hospital redevelopment, which includes a new clinical services building and a new cancer care centre including radiation oncology service
- completed the \$147.7 million Logan Hospital Emergency Department upgrade
- negotiated the development lease to enable construction of the Brisbane Broncos Training, Administration and Community Facility
- approved funding through *Get Playing Plus*, to support 47 large sport and recreation infrastructure projects across the State
- piloted the School Sport Infrastructure Program to provide opportunities for community use of under-utilised places in schools for sport and active recreation
- delivered recreation infrastructure in Seqwater's catchments, dams and lakes including trails at Lake Samsonvale and Wyaralong Dam, upgraded picnic and recreation areas at Lake Macdonald, Waterside Park, Hinze Dam and Lake Wivenhoe, and upgraded paddle craft launch areas at Lake Maroon and Wyaralong Dam
- engaged key State Government, business, community and local government stakeholders through the Community Hubs and Partnerships program to maximise the social and community benefits of infrastructure projects in Caboolture, Yarrabilba and Moranbah
- contributed funding to Round 1 of the Federal Government's Mobile Black Spot Program, leveraging funding for 68 new or upgraded mobile towers over the next three years and established ongoing management of the arrangement, with 15 new sites already in place improving telecommunications coverage for businesses and communities
- continued a collaborative partnership with the Council of Mayors South East Queensland and the Property Council of Australia to investigate how a City Deal model approach to funding infrastructure can be applied to the South East Queensland region
- commenced delivery of a \$20 million Betterment Fund, supporting councils impacted by Tropical Cyclone Marcia, to design and build back to a more disaster-resilient standard
- coordinated the submission of 26 applications to the Federal Government's National Water Infrastructure Development Fund, with Queensland securing funding for feasibility studies for 14 water supply proposals
- enabled infrastructure development through the delivery of 13 planning schemes, two Indigenous Land Use Plans and four Community Survey Plans in discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, providing the security of land tenure required for private operators and public sector agencies to invest in these communities

### **Delivering quality frontline services**

- recommissioned the first stages of the Borallon Training and Correctional Centre, which has a strong focus on education, training and employment skills as part of the rehabilitation process
- provided a rolling four-year statewide schools fund
- opened four new primary schools for the commencement of the 2016 school year under the Queensland Schools Public Private Partnership Project:
  - Pallara State School – relocation of existing school to a brand new school at Ritchie Road, Pallara
  - Bellmere State School – new primary school at Caboolture West
  - Griffin State School – new primary school in Pine Rivers
  - Deebling Heights State School – new primary school in Ripley Valley
- established new integrated early years education services in the communities of Gordonvale, Lockhart River, Barcaldine and Blackall
- completed the redevelopment of the Sunshine Coast Recreation Centre

- commenced the four-year \$28 million critical infrastructure and maintenance upgrade of the South Bank Cultural Precinct to replace and renew essential services to ensure Queensland's arts assets provide world-class experiences for more than five million visitors annually
- continued the rollout of the Government Wireless Network across South East Queensland to maximise emergency response capabilities and improve radio communications for police, fire and ambulance services

[Read more about the Plan's goals, targets and measures for infrastructure.](#)



## Governance

A robust governance system provides the mechanisms by which Queenslanders can shape and nurture their communities. It means that Queensland's diverse population is engaged and empowered to be involved in decision-making, unnecessary barriers to productivity are removed, and governments function in an environment of transparency and accountability.

The Queensland Government is committed to consultation, integrity and accountability. In 2015–16, the Queensland Government:

### Creating jobs and a diverse economy

- established the Queensland Small Business Advisory Council to provide advice, recommendations and practical solutions to identified small business issues
- established the Red Tape Reduction Advisory Council to provide advice to government on red, green and blue tape areas of most concern to small business and assist government to provide a business environment conducive to strong, profitable and globally competitive businesses
- completed a review of arts funding and the manner in which funds are assessed and dispersed ensuring processes to return transparency and fairness to the arts sector
- reviewed government procurement practices to realise a new vision for the future of procurement
- completed Total Asset Management Plans across all departments to facilitate improved asset management and utilisation

### Delivering quality frontline services

- continued to implement a customer-centric approach to service design to connect services, reduce duplication, and provide seamless and easy access to government services
- improved government transparency and efficiency of the Open Data initiative and Open Data Portal, publishing more than 2200 datasets and 8400 resources
- increased access to archival collections by increasing the number of indices of records with the assistance of an expanded volunteer program, released additional open datasets and collaborated with University of Queensland software design students on innovative projects to increase access through visualisations
- commenced procurement of a commercial-off-the-shelf ICT solution to collect data on the public sector workforce to improve transparency and accountability in government
- increased the number of justice services available online and investigated and implemented ways to improve frontline service delivery
- increased the number of transport licensing and registration services available online and through smartphone apps

### Protecting the environment

- progressed planning reform with the introduction and passage of the *Planning Act 2016* package in May 2016 delivering key elements of the directions paper, *Better Planning for Queensland – Next Steps in Planning Reform*, aimed at facilitating Queensland's prosperity, including through ecologically sustainable development that balances economic growth, environmental protection and community wellbeing

### Building safe, caring and connected communities

- Established the Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council with broad representation from the community to oversee and advocate for implementation of the *Not Now, Not Ever* report and the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2016-26
- commenced piloting an integrated geographical information system to assist with evidence-based planning and development of sport and active recreation places and spaces
- released a new Partners in Government Agreement to cement the strong relationship that exists with the Local Government Association of Queensland



- returned to the Electoral Commission the power to appoint the returning officer for a local government election to ensure local government elections are run in accordance with high standards of independence and efficiency
- required local governments to keep written records of alleged and proven losses arising from fraud as well as material losses, and to report material loss as a result of fraud
- delivered a pre-election training program for intending local government candidates (788 people participated in a total of 90 sessions) to improve awareness and understanding of responsibilities of being a councillor and representing communities
- delivered a post-election 2016 Councillor Induction Program, involving 66 councils and 587 councillors, mayors and senior staff, to improve understanding of roles and responsibilities in relation to representing the social, economic and environmental interests of their community
- held six financial management workshops for local governments to increase skills in statutory financial reporting and better managing local government finances and 12 fraud management workshops to assist local governments to develop anti-fraud strategies, fraud policies and associated risk registers
- established the Community Hubs and Partnerships Program Board and Cross Agency Review Panel to support cross-government collaboration and planning to streamline service, particularly in designated Priority Development Areas

[Read more about the Plan's goals, targets and measures for governance.](#)

## Looking ahead 2016–17

Priority activities for the Queensland Government for 2016–17 include:

### Education

- delivering *Advancing education: An action plan for education in Queensland* and developing a suite of Advancing education supporting plans
- establishing new integrated early years services in the communities of Inala, Redlands and Tara
- opening Professional Learning Hubs to deliver high quality professional learning programs to support teachers in their local context
- building confidence and capability of parents and educators through specialist advisory services provided through the Autism Hub and Reading Centre
- releasing the *2016–17 Annual VET Investment Plan* including strengthened quality measures for approved training providers
- providing early childhood literacy programs, including the National Summer Reading Club and year three of the First 5 Forever family literacy initiative, a \$20 million program over four years to give families the information and tools they need to help children develop language and literacy skills through public libraries

### Community

- releasing a series of transport futures discussion papers to consult with Queenslanders on the transport system's future challenges and opportunities, with feedback informing the *Queensland Transport Policy*, which will establish the strategic direction for Queensland's transport system over the next 30 years
- transitioning to the NDIS over three years 2016–17 to 2018–19
- developing and implementing a new disability plan for Queensland, building more inclusive and accessible communities and recognising Queensland's commitment to the *National Disability Strategy 2010–2020*
- continuing to implement the recommendations from the report *Not Now, Not Ever: Putting an End to Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland* through the *Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2016–26*, including
  - supporting delivery of specialist and family violence courts
  - enhancing capability of community justice groups located within 18 discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Queensland
  - supporting the Women's Legal Services Helpline for victims of domestic violence
  - establishing a Queensland Sexual Assault Counselling Privilege legal service
  - participating in High Risk Teams to provide an integrated response across Government and the community to domestic and family violence
- launching a new three-year Women on Boards Initiative, in partnership with Deloitte, to increase women's representation in leadership
- implementing the recommendations of the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry through the Supporting Families, Changing Futures reform program, including the continued rollout of Family and Child Connect and Intensive Family Support services, as well as a range of initiatives to deliver on the intent of the reforms
- working in partnership with Family Matters to deliver an action plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families experiencing vulnerability to eliminate, within a generation, the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care
- rolling out Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Services across the state to make it easier for families to receive the help they need quickly and efficiently, drawing from the richness and diversity in the community sector to design local responses that focus on healing support, restoring people's social and emotional wellbeing and building the resilience of families
- facilitating the report from the advisory taskforce on the residential transition for ageing Queenslanders

- releasing the government's strategic direction for young people, the *Queensland Youth Strategy*
- providing support for National Youth Week 2017 to promote the voices and achievements of young people across the state and supporting the delivery of the YMCA Youth Parliament, building the leadership and civic participation skills of young people
- delivering the Queensland Indigenous Youth leadership Program, developing the skills of our future Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders
- implementing the *Multicultural Recognition Act 2016* including:
  - developing a multicultural policy and action plan
  - promoting the *Multicultural Queensland Charter* and its principles of equity, fairness, welcome and belonging across Queensland
  - establishing the Queensland Multicultural Advisory Council
- celebrating the inaugural Queensland Multicultural Month, the State's largest celebration of multiculturalism, in August 2016
- continuing funding for 19 organisations (under three-year agreements to 2017–18) to deliver activities under the Community Action for a Multicultural Society program to strengthen social connectedness
- developing and begin implementing a 10-year Queensland housing strategy
- implementing the recommendations of the *Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry* to tackle serious and organised crime and keep the community safe
- committing to introduce concessional public transport fares for asylum seekers and for job seekers receiving Newstart or Youth Allowance to ensure that vulnerable members of our community have equitable access to public transport
- delivering sustainable long-term funding for the legal assistance, legal profession regulation and law library services to vulnerable Queenslanders
- developing a comprehensive, whole-of-government youth justice policy to guide all government agencies to work together to support children, young people and families in contact with the youth justice system
- delivering new enhanced prisoner re-entry services to expand and specialise the delivery of offender reintegration to reduce reoffending
- engaging the community in creative programs, including the Signature Program, the Queensland Literary Awards, black&write! Indigenous writing and editing program and the Edge's Fabrication Lab

## Regions

- progressing the new *South East Queensland Regional Plan* including
  - releasing the draft for public consultation
  - delivering the final plan for adoption
- commencing work on the first North Queensland Regional Plan
- implementing the Tackling Regional Adversity through Integrated Care Program in nine rural and regional Hospital and Health Services to build resilience, foster connectedness and encourage help-seeking behaviour in communities adversely impacted by droughts, natural disasters and community crises
- delivering coordinated major water and waste water infrastructure improvements in Cherbourg, Palm Island and Aurukun
- continuing work with stakeholders on North Stradbroke Island including the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation, Straddie Chamber of Commerce, Redland City Council and the University of Queensland to implement the *North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition Strategy* to help maximise the economic, cultural and residential opportunities on the Island, and to develop a structure plan to improve living conditions for residents at the One Mile settlement
- partnering with Townsville City Council and providing \$14 million in funding towards the \$28 million stage 1 Townsville Waterfront Promenade project, which will encourage development opportunities along the Townsville CBD waterfront

- partnering with Townsville City Council and Townsville Airport, providing \$9 million in funding towards the \$10 million Townsville Airport Apron project, which will boost growth of commercial aviation operations and specialist aviation industry activities
- implementing the *Advancing Our Cities and Regions Strategy*, which will benefit the economy and community through renewing surplus and underutilised state-owned property
- finalising the investigation into a new State Development Area around the Port of Bundaberg to facilitate major industrial and port-related development in the area, while protecting key environmental and community values
- appointing a managing contractor for the North Queensland Stadium project, which is estimated to generate 750 jobs during the design and construction phase, with commencement of site early works anticipated by mid-2017

## Economy

- implementing the Back to Work Regional Employment Package
- continuing to support the Working Queensland Jobs Plan including:
  - continuing the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program
  - providing additional funding to TAFE
  - promoting Jobs Queensland as an independent statutory authority
- implementing the North Stradbroke Island Workers Assistance Scheme
- establishing the Ministerial Freight Council to deliver *Queensland's Freight Horizon*
- appointing the Small Business Champion to provide a voice for small business
- creating a small business knowledge and data hub researching key issues impacting on Queensland small businesses, drawing on targeted research across government
- continuing to build on the Advance Queensland agenda through implementing Accelerating Advance Queensland programs that harness creativity and ingenuity to turn ideas into outcomes, build businesses, and ultimately create jobs, including:
  - the Small Business Innovation Research pilot to solve Government challenges while providing commercial opportunities for business the Platform Technology Program to unlock the potential of business to innovate
  - Industry Accelerators to harness existing strengths and foster new opportunities
  - the Regional Innovation Hubs Program to build innovation ecosystems across the state
  - The Startup Precinct, located in the historic TC Beirne building in Fortitude Valley, Brisbane
  - the Chief Entrepreneur to energise Queensland's startup sector, build collaboration and networks to support innovation, promote entrepreneurship and advocate for Queensland nationally and internationally
- implementing and delivering the new and expanded programs under *the Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy 2016–20*
- developing 10-year Roadmaps and Action Plans in priority industry sectors to grow and diversify the Queensland economy
- hosting the 2016 *DestinationQ* Forum in Mackay
- releasing *Advancing Tourism 2016–20 : Growing Queensland Jobs* to develop Queensland tourism and create jobs
- rewriting the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994* and Regulation to deal with the consequences of the transition of domestic commercial vessels safety administration to the Federal Government
- strengthening the Queensland Government's approach to open data, and boosting the availability and increasing the quality of high-value data sets
- developing a whole-of-government Trade and Investment Strategy and continue to deliver Ministerial-led missions to Queensland's key overseas markets

- expanding Queensland's international footprint by opening new offices in China and Singapore to maximise trade and investment opportunities.
- developing and implementing the *International Education and Training Strategy to Advance Queensland 2016–26*
- continuing progress on the master planning for Queensland's priority ports under the *Sustainable Ports Development Act 2015*
- holding the Department of State Development Major Projects Series across Queensland
- continuing the Coordinator-General's environmental impact assessment process for the 13 declared coordinated projects
- commencing consultation with cultural and creative industries stakeholders on a 10-year vision
- supporting Queensland's small to medium arts sector through outcomes of the Organisations Fund 2017–20
- expanding the State Library of Queensland's Business Studio to further support business, social enterprise and creative industries
- establishing a Cross River Rail Economic Development Strategy to maximise economic and social returns from the government's investment in the Cross River Rail project

## Health and wellbeing

- delivering on the \$361 million strategy to tackle hospital waiting lists under the *Specialist Outpatients Strategy*
- delivering on a four-year plan to offer up to 4000 additional places to new Queensland nurse and midwifery graduates, and to employ 400 experienced nurses to help patients navigate the health system
- establishing the Queensland Health Export and Investment Advisory Council, representing the private sector, research community, finance sector and health services to help facilitate the export of our health service expertise and attract investment to Queensland
- releasing the *Queensland Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Strategy 2016–21*, which focuses on improving the responsiveness of Queensland Health's services to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders with severe mental illness
- releasing the *Queensland Sexual Health Strategy 2016–21*
- recruiting 110 additional ambulance officers to provide enhanced roster coverage to manage increasing demand for ambulance services, in addition to the 40 ambulance officers recruited in late 2015–16
- commissioning 170 new and replacement ambulance vehicles and continuing the rollout of the new power assisted stretchers that provide an enhanced work platform for paramedics and improve patient and officer safety
- undertaking minor works at various ambulance stations, and planning or delivering new and replacement ambulance stations at Collinsville, Rainbow Beach, Yandina, Bundaberg, Birtinya, Kenilworth, Coral Gardens, Wynnum, and Thursday Island
- embedding *My health, Queensland's future: Advancing health 2026*, in Queensland's health system
- continuing to implement the Refresh Nursing and Nursing Guarantee policies
- expanding the Rural Generalist Pathway to provide a training program for doctors interested in practising in rural or remote areas
- releasing the whole-of-government *Queensland Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2015–17*, which aims to prevent and reduce the adverse impacts of alcohol and other drugs on the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders
- identifying and reporting on indicators to measure progress towards improving mental health and wellbeing of Queenslanders, focusing on the six long-term outcomes outlined in the *Queensland Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Strategic Plan 2014–19*
- implementing the suicide prevention in health services initiative, including the establishment and operation of a suicide prevention health taskforce in partnership between Queensland Health and the Primary Health Networks

- developing a Building Plan to encourage safety, fairness, innovation and sustainability in Queensland's building and construction future which will include the development of proposals and consultation with industry, stakeholders and consumers on a wide range of reforms

## Environment

- preparing for the 1 January 2017 commencement of the Biofuels Mandate set out in the *Liquid Fuel Supply (Ethanol and Other Biofuels Mandate) Amendment Act 2015* by finalising the regulatory framework and implementing an extensive consumer education campaign to assist consumers to better understand ethanol-blended fuels
- facilitating investment in renewable energy, including wind farm projects through the recently delivered wind farm code and planning guideline
- providing high-resolution climate change projections for Queensland, an interactive climate change website, and regional workshops on climate change risks on a regional scale
- using innovative digital soil-mapping approaches to produce a consistent set of spatial soil data for the entire Fitzroy Basin to inform better land management practices
- undertaking reef science projects to inform land management practices and understand water quality impacts on the Great Barrier Reef
- developing a sustainable transition to 50 per cent renewable energy to create the jobs of the future, continue to boost investment, acting on climate change, and delivering value and energy system security for both customers and government

## People

- developing an Indigenous Procurement Policy in response to *Moving Ahead: A strategic approach to increasing the participation of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people in Queensland's economy 2016-22*
- continuing to provide support and assistance for seniors, carers and volunteers
- implementing a Queensland Public Sector Inclusion and Diversity Strategy
- continuing to contribute to the child safety reform agenda initiated by the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry report.
- developing and implementing a comprehensive youth justice policy to support an effective youth justice system which reflects contemporary best practice in the management of juvenile offenders and their families, with a focus on prevention and rehabilitation
- transferring responsibility for offences committed by 17-year-olds from the adult criminal justice system to the youth justice system
- addressing recidivism by providing offenders with the opportunity to reduce reoffending through education and work programs
- developing an integrated whole-of-criminal justice strategy that identifies innovation in service delivery and a model to better manage demand across the justice system
- developing and implementing a strategy and action plan to reduce Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander over-representation in the child protection system, reduce child sexual abuse and close the gap in life outcomes for vulnerable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families
- supporting reconciliation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders through the Stolen Wages Reparations Scheme
- developing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Strategy, within a whole-of-government justice framework
- continuing to work with partner departments to prevent and address the impacts of domestic and family violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, including active involvement in the development and implementation of Integrated Service Response trials
- leading the *National Indigenous Reform Agreement* to close the gap in life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders

- working with all levels of government and the early childhood sector to close the gap in early childhood outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
- developing an investment framework to maximise social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders
- supporting the Government Champions Program and the newly established Ministerial Champions Program to strengthen the whole-of-government response to improving Indigenous outcomes in discrete communities
- implementing Aurukun's Four Point Plan to ensure community calm and safety

## Infrastructure

- implementing the *State Infrastructure Plan*
- finalising the *Transport Coordination Plan 2016-26* to provide a strategic framework for the coordinated planning of transport in Queensland over the next decade
- delivering a long term rail strategy and investment plan 2017–47
- identifying a future planning pipeline for the development of the transport system through the delivery of *Regional Transport Plans*
- bringing the following to the market under the State Infrastructure Fund:
  - \$88.4 million (50:50 funding arrangement with the Federal Government), towards the \$400 million Ipswich Motorway Upgrade: Rocklea to Darra – Stage 1, Package 1
  - \$95 million North Coast Rail Line productivity upgrades
  - \$40 million Dawson Highway (Gladstone – Biloela) bridge replacements
  - \$30 million Riverway Drive duplication, Townsville (Gollogly Lane – Allambie Lane)
  - \$22 million Kawana Way and Nicklin Way intersection improvement
  - \$10 million Rockhampton Road Train Access – Stage 1 improving road train access and intersection upgrades on Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road
- providing funding for Round 2 of the Federal Government's Mobile Black Spot Program with locations to be announced in late 2016
- securing contractual close of the \$3 billion Queen's Wharf Brisbane development – the Integrated Resort Development revitalisation of an underutilised section of the Brisbane CBD
- delivering four new schools and four major school stages in 2017
  - Cairns Special School – new \$25 million special school
  - Redbank Plains – new primary school
  - Caboolture North East – new primary school
  - Bellbird Park – new secondary school
  - Burpengary State Secondary College – Stage 2
  - Pimpama State Primary College – Stage 2
  - Pimpama State Secondary College – Stage 3
  - Highfields State Secondary College – Stage 2
- planning for new schools to open in 2018, including:
  - North-West Townsville – new primary school
  - Coomera – new primary school
  - Caloundra South – new primary school
- opening the Redcliffe Peninsula railway line
- continuing the delivery of 75 new six-car passenger trains as part of the New Generation Rollingstock project
- delivering \$18.8 billion in transport infrastructure investment as outlined in the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2015–16 to 2018–19
- providing funding under the Building our Regions Regional Infrastructure Fund for local governments
- establishing the Cross River Rail Statutory Authority to deliver the Cross River Rail project



- progressing the Maturing the Infrastructure Pipeline Program with projects identified through the consultation phase of the *State Infrastructure Plan* and local government infrastructure priorities.
- progressing the development of policy and principles which support building information modelling to enhance procurement efficiency and whole of life asset management
- establishing the Cities Transformation Taskforce to drive a whole-of-government approach to negotiating City Deals and ensuring alignment with the Queensland Government's broader cities agenda
- preparing and signing a Townsville City Deal agreement between the Federal Government, Queensland Government and Townsville City Council
- establishing a Community Infrastructure Reference Group to assist engagement in rural, regional and metropolitan areas of Queensland
- preparing the Queensland Bulk Water Opportunities Statement as one of the Strategic Infrastructure documents to support the *State Infrastructure Plan*
- completing the business case for Brisbane's new performing arts venue for Brisbane for government consideration
- finalising a Conservation Management Plan for Brisbane's Cultural Precinct to provide a framework to manage its heritage significance and inform future planning and investment
- commencing the Cremorne Theatre refurbishment including redesign of stage and seating
- continuing to undertake the essential infrastructure upgrade program across Queensland's premier cultural institutions on Brisbane's South Bank
- delivering a new cost-effective, account-based ticketing system to use bus, rail, ferry and tram travel, and potentially a diverse range of transport-related services
- constructing the Commonwealth Games Village, which is estimated to generate 1500 jobs during the design and construction phase, and delivering the GC2018 competition venue program, which will generate more than 1000 jobs during the design and construction phase
- supporting local governments and private sector groups through the Catalyst Infrastructure Program by investing \$59 million in the delivery of catalyst infrastructure that unlocks development and creates construction and long term employment

## Governance

- making informed infrastructure decisions following the independent advice of Building Queensland, including advice on business cases of major infrastructure projects and priorities identified in the six-monthly Infrastructure Pipeline report
- continuing to work with local governments to build and maintain their capacity and assist in monitoring and managing their performance and sustainability.



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES

Local government offers a vital contribution to the effort to bring *The Queensland Plan* to life and to the prosperity and liveability of Queensland communities.

Through a vast and diverse range of initiatives, councils are at the forefront of delivering services that meet the current and future needs of their residents, visitors and local businesses. The role of local government has evolved considerably in recent decades from its traditional mandate to one where we are very much at the heart of planning and supporting the economic and social well-being of Queensland and the protection of its outstanding natural assets.

Local government has embraced the importance of incorporating strategy and innovation into our operations to achieve the outcomes our communities require. Improving productivity, fostering connectivity and being responsive to our customers are hallmarks of our approach. Queensland councils are willing travellers on this exciting journey.

In the past 12 months in particular, local government has led many activities that align with *The Queensland Plan's* nine foundation areas: education; community; regions; economy; health and wellbeing; environment; people; infrastructure; and governance. The case studies below demonstrate how local government is contributing to the plan's vision for Queensland.

Local government looks forward to working with the Queensland Government on this important strategy and playing its part in securing a more prosperous, healthier and liveable future for all Queenslanders.

### **MAYOR MARK JAMIESON** **PRESIDENT, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND**

#### **Aurukun Shire Council**

Aurukun Shire Council has long craved opportunities to develop its economy, generate jobs for locals and promote and preserve its community's cultural heritage. This year, [the council unveiled plans to introduce tourism](#) to the Cape York community and provide visitors with an authentic Indigenous experience.

The council will document walking trails, significant historical sites and scenic waterfront locations and is exploring options including fly-in, fly-out tours for people wanting to meet acclaimed local Wik and Kugu artists or experience camping and fishing with Aurukun's Traditional Owners. By introducing tourism ventures on country, the council will enable Traditional Owners to develop their own businesses, generate employment and preserve and showcase their culture.

<http://www.aurukun.qld.gov.au/aurukun-shire-council-investigates-tourism-options/>

#### **Barcoo and Diamantina shire councils**

Patchy phone service and unreliable internet connectivity had held back five remote towns – Stonehenge, Jundah, Windorah, Birdsville and Bedourie – in western Queensland.

The shires of Barcoo and Diamantina united to spearhead a campaign for vastly improved communication services. The result of their advocacy was a \$21.5 million project that will see Telstra and federal, state and local governments contribute to the roll-out of 400km of fibre-optic cable to connect the towns and bring them up to speed with world standards.

Local government has partnered with the University of Southern Queensland to measure the digital benefits of the upgrade to these two shires, particularly the delivery of public services and the impacts on local businesses.

#### Cairns Regional Council

Like all local governments, Cairns Regional Council faces financial constraints and continues to investigate ways to achieve cost savings while maintaining, or even improving, its levels of service. The council introduced a GPS remote monitoring program to maximise productivity of its resources, which include \$4.7 billion worth of assets, 1,200 staff members, approximately 470 mobile vehicles and plant items and 2,073 hectares of maintained parkland.

Whether it be performing services such as street sweeping, public bin collections, lawn mowing or animal management, the program has led to more informed logistical decision-making and generated a positive return on investment.

<http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/>

#### Cherbourg and Yarrabah Aboriginal shire councils

Several councils have teamed up with their local police to develop innovative ways of reducing anti-social behaviour in their communities.

Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council has installed smart lights which, combined with closed-circuit television cameras, helps deter or capture offenders who commit offences such as graffiti and property damage.

Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council has deployed noise sensors to reduce offences associated with “party houses”.

#### Ipswich City Council

As one of Queensland’s fastest growing cities, Ipswich has a strong track record in driving the innovation agenda. Ipswich City Council this year launched [Fire Station 101](#), Australia’s only fully government-backed hub that brings together an inspiring workplace, state-of-the-art digital infrastructure and a community of like-minded entrepreneurs.

Fire Station 101 provides contemporary workspaces, high-speed data/high-capacity internet and Wi-Fi, networking/business development/investment pathways, event space for more than 100 people, and mentoring, training and professional development. The facility’s overall aim is to inspire innovation and help entrepreneurs succeed.

<http://firestation101.com.au/>

#### Lockyer Valley Regional Council

Engaging the community is a must for any government body. Lockyer Valley Regional Council’s [interactive budget allocator](#) has given residents the opportunity to have a say in how their rates are spent.

The online tool, launched this year, is designed to determine the community’s priorities in regards to services, helping the council determine how frequently to mow parks or grade unsealed roads. The allocator also helps residents understand the direct connection between levels of service, the budget and rates.

<http://www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/our-council/news/Pages/Have-your-say-on-Council%E2%80%99s-Budget-.aspx>

## Sunshine Coast Council

Sunshine Coast Council this year unveiled its commitment to Australia's first automated waste collection system for a CBD. The \$21 million system will be installed in the new Maroochydore City Centre – Australia's only green field CBD at this time – and making it one of the cleanest, greenest and most innovative cities in the country. Waste will be placed into three separate inlets – organic, recyclable and general – built into commercial buildings, apartments and public areas and transported at a speed of up to 70km/h through a 6.5km network of underground vacuum pipes beneath the city centre. The system, to be delivered by Envac, will eliminate the need for wheelie bins and rubbish trucks, reduce odours and the presence of vermin in public and lower the cost of daily street-cleaning.

<https://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Council/News-Centre/Maroochydore-City-Centre-leads-waste-revolution-210916>

## Winton Shire Council

With its community enduring drought, economic hardship and reduced government funding, Winton Shire Council is constantly exploring ways to be innovative and sustainable to survive financially.

By early next year, the council will commission its \$3.5 million geothermal power plant, which will convert heat from an existing artesian bore into a long-term energy source for the town. The facility will offset almost all of council's energy use with renewable power. It will be the first time in Australia that this form of energy production has been adopted to deliver such wide-ranging benefits.

<http://www.winton.qld.gov.au/>

## Drones

The LGAQ has commissioned reports to identify the value that drones can provide to local government. Its research has revealed opportunities to collect data more efficiently in activities including volumetrics, asset management, pest and weed control, compliance management and disaster recovery.

Local government is also participating in "Beyond Visible Line of Sight" drone trials on the Next Generation technology mobile phone network.

<http://www.lgis.com.au/documents/41029759/41034887/LGIS%20report%20-%20Remotely%20Piloted%20Aircraft%202016.pdf>

## Digital economy

The Central Western Queensland Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD), a local government body, has championed initiatives and driven strategies to ensure their councils capitalise on opportunities presented by the digital economy, particularly in the form of new jobs and skills.

The [LGAQ's bi-annual Digital Productivity Report](#) highlights insights into how councils are using technology to perform services more efficiently and engage better with their communities.

<http://lgaq.asn.au/documents/10136/5bd6306a-2a22-493e-b7fa-bac7b6729df9>

## Queenslanders working together

Queensland industries, small businesses, universities, community groups and not-for-profit organisations continued to work together in 2015–16.

Queenslanders led by example in achieving outcomes for their local communities. Examples of community collaboration that aligned to the goals of the Plan include:

### Working with traditional owners:

- the Deadly Choices Brisbane Broncos Partnership between the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health and the Brisbane Broncos helped Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to make good health choices
- the North Queensland Cowboys' Dream, Believe, Achieve program, funded by the Queensland Government, providing local Indigenous Australians with training, work experience and employment opportunities in the hospitality industry
- NRL Cowboys House has been launched and is now under construction. In 2017, NRL Cowboys House will accommodate up to 25 Indigenous students from remote areas of north Queensland while they attend high school in Townsville. It is planned to move to full capacity of 50 students by 2018
- Researchers from the University of Southern Queensland are working with Aboriginal groups in six regional communities supporting their development of cultural heritage enterprises and the South West Queensland Indigenous Cultural Trail

### Promoting health and wellbeing:

- Cancer Council Queensland has launched a five year research partnership with the University of Southern Queensland to find ways to close the urban-regional gap in cancer survival in Queensland
- Queensland researchers are crowd-sourcing compounds in a world-first effort to combat antibiotic-resistant bacteria
- A new facility for the Pensions, Advocacy and Welfare Services was opened by the Moreton District Pensions, Advocacy and Welfare Services group and Lowood RSL Sub Branch to be a central hub for volunteers to provide services

### Helping Queensland's students:

- Griffith University's Kungullanji Indigenous Summer Research Program is offering new pathways to upskill undergraduate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and prepare them for PhD study, through their innovative research initiative

### Collaborating in the regions:

- The University of Southern Queensland's Institute for Resilient Regions has partnered with the Remote Area Planning and Development Board and the South West Regional Economic Development group of shires to develop future pathways programs for regional resilience and sustainable development in central western and south western Queensland
- CQUniversity Australia is partnering with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland, to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Emerald, Yeppoon, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Biloela and Bundaberg
- Researchers Professor Rocky de Nys and Dr Nicholas Paul at James Cook University in Townsville have been harnessing algae to clean waste water, create human and animals foods, and produce biofuels for potential use in aviation, mining and marine industries

### Managing the environment:

- Queensland roboticists have developed the world's first robot designed to seek out and control the deadly crown-of-thorns starfish, which are responsible for an estimated 40 per cent of the Great Barrier Reef's total decline in coral cover

## MONITORING AND REPORTING

The Plan includes a suite of measures by which progress towards the Plan's goals and targets can be monitored.

The implementation of the Plan is to be achieved over a 30-year period with incremental progress expected.

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet is developing a revised reporting framework to report on progress towards the vision and goals of the Plan.